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DELEGATION TO 54TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION



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Notes from the Executive Secretary



TO YOUNG FARMERS

By Hugh P. McClimon

The 34th Annual State Convention will be held January 15 - 16 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, "the meeting place of yesterday and today." A special effort is being made to provide adequate accommodations at a reasonable cost. The Nominating Committee will meet Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. and a luncheon at 12:00 noon for the officers and their guests. Both the General Session and Ladies' Program will start at 1:30 p.m. in order to allow plenty of time for the usual items on the agenda and tours which have been scheduled as a part of the program.

Following a business session the men will tour facilities at the North Charleston Terminal conducted by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. Stops will include the grain elevators, containerization, cold storage and transient yard. The ladies are scheduled for a Gray Line Bus Tour of the city. Everyone should make plans to arrive early to participate in these activities.

The Annual Banquet at 7:00 p.m. will feature a buffet, the presentation of awards, and Rev. Claude McBride of Athens, Georgia, who comes in the person of HAPPY CALHOUN, "a man of the hills" from the town of Possum Gap. Highlighting the Breakfast Session at 8:30 a.m. will be the presentation of other awards, recognition of individual members for outstanding service, and an address by Ken Jones of Charleston.

Make reservations and arrive early!

TO FUTURE FARMERS

By J. Earl Frick, Jr.

The South Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America was represented by 99 members, advisors, and lay persons from 25 chapters at the 1981 National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, November 11-14. Nearly 23,000 FFA members from throughout the United States enjoyed the sights and sounds of the convention. Many members and chapters were recognized for accomplishments made during the past year. Congratulations to our South Carolina FFA members and chapters who received honors at the convention. Please note the award winners in this issue of the magazine. Special recognition is due Mr. W. M. Harris, editor of the magazine, for receiving his Honorary American Farmer Degree, and Bill Head of the Walhalla Chapter, who was fourth high individual in the National FFA Nursery-Landscape event.

The 1982 National FFA WEEK will be celebrated February 20-27. Every chapter should make a concentrated effort to promote vocational agriculture and the FFA organization. This year, the Dorman FFA Chapter is featured on the National FFA WEEK materials, so our state should make a special effort to utilize the materials that are available from the National FFA Supply Service. Examine the information packet your chapter recently received on National FFA WEEK promotional supplies. Materials are also available in the Official FFA Catalog for 1981-82. Start early, and make plans to involve every FFA member in your chapter in the FFA WEEK celebration.

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FUTURE FARMERS ATTEND NATIONAL EVENT

STATE DELEGATES



Laurie Staggs of Dorman, President of the S. C. Association of FFA, and State Vice President Darrell Ricketts of Abbeville, represented the 7,000 member S. C. Association of Future Farmers of America and were South Carolina's official delegates. The official delegates make up the voting body of the convention.

The fifty-fourth National Convention of the Future Farmers of America held in Kansas City, Missouri November 11-15 is the largest youth convention in the nation. Over 23,000 Future Farmers, adult advisors, and guests, representing every state in the nation, filled the hotels within a 50-mile radius of Kansas City. Closed circuit television was installed to handle the overflow crowds in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peele, internationally known speaker and author, highlighted the speakers for the convention. Dr. Peele spoke on positive thinking and faith. He urged FFA members to "believe in God and yourself." His speech was interrupted frequently by cheers and applause. Colonel David Roeder, former hostage of the United States Air Force in Washington, DC, addressed the group on the need to be free. He didn't relate another hostage story but discussed what we can learn from such an experience. John Naber, winner of four gold medals for swimming in the 1976 Summer Olympics, addressed the gathering. Frank Naylor, Under Secretary, Small Community and Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, appeared before the group. Eddie Albert, star of the popular television show "Green Acres" appeared as a special guest. "I know about the Future Farmers and how important they are to the country and to the world and I would like to be able to say hello to the group," said Albert. Jineane Ford, 1980 Miss USA, brought greetings.

Ninety-six Future Farmers, student teachers, FFA advisors, and State Staff members from South Carolina, attended and participated in the convention. The South Carolina representatives participated in four of the national judging contests and received a number of awards.

Frank R. Stover, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education and State Advisor to the Future Farmers of America, was in charge of the delegation. He was assisted by J. Earl Frick, Jr., State FFA Executive Secretary and teacher of agriculture. The two official delegates from South Carolina to the National Convention were Laurie Staggs of Dorman, State President, and Darrell Ricketts of Abbeville, State Vice President. The official delegates make up the voting body of the convention. Each state is permitted to send two delegates from its active membership plus one additional delegate for each additional 10,000 members.

FFA members filled to capacity the leadership workshops sponsored by the National FFA Alumni Association held in conjunction with the convention.

Those in attendance were entertained throughout the three-day convention with music provided by the 109-piece FFA Band, the 112-member FFA Chorus, and talent groups. Larry Butler from Hillcrest Chapter of Sumter, represented South Carolina in the national chorus. Timothy Reese of Travelers Rest, represented South Carolina in the band. These musical units are recruited by mail and had never played or sung together before arriving in Kansas City. The National FFA Band led the opening parade for the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show. This year the band performed during the half-time of the Kansas City Chiefs' football game.

FFA members were involved in every possible way at the educational convention. South Carolina students served as ushers, stage crew, press assistants, and Courtesy Corps members. Many activities took place during the three days involving FFA members representing each of the 50 states and Puerto Rico. Over 2,500 awards were presented to members at the convention. Chapters were honored for their participation in the Building Our American Communities Program, National Safety Awards, and National Chapter Awards. One thousand five hundred FFA members were involved in eight national FFA judging contests. These contests range from livestock to mechanics, horticulture to business management. Chuck Berry, a 21-year-old dairy farmer from Elma, Washington, and 21-year-old Dale Wolf, Jr. from Baldwin, Wisconsin, were recognized as the "best of the best" in the "Stars Over America" pageant. Berry was named the Star Farmer of America and Wolf the Star Agribusinessman of America.

National President Mark Herndon of Oklahoma City called the convention to order and student officers presided over the sessions of the convention, which included nine national FFA contests related to vocational agriculture's instructional program and the presentation of awards to members. Many members enhanced their education through the Agriculture Career Show which featured more than 110 exhibits from agriculture and

Continued on Page 4

FUTURE FARMERS ATTEND NATIONAL EVENT

(Continued from Page 3)

agribusiness. Federal agencies, professional associations, and educational institutions gave the 23,000 FFA members and advisors attending the convention a chance to learn about career opportunities in agriculture. There was a wide diversity of exhibits so there was sure to be at least one career display that would interest each person. Exhibits told about education and training requirements, new technology, and materials for career education.

Other convention award ceremonies included the naming of 22 National Proficiency Award winners involved in areas of agriculture production and agribusiness. Seven hundred seventy nine FFA members from throughout the nation were raised to the organization's highest degree, the American Farmer Degree. The National FFA Public Speaking Contest drew a standing-room-only crowd to hear 17-year-old Kenny Davis of Guthrie, Oklahoma, deliver his winning speech entitled *The Farmer's Destiny*. Bill Caraway, 17 of Clovis, New Mexico, spoke on developing the leadership skills needed for working in agribusiness to win the Extemporaneous Speaking Contest.

Six members were chosen by their peers to serve the FFA organization as national officers for the coming year. Scott W. Neasham, 20, of Newton, Iowa, was elected National President. John Pope, 20, of Maiden, North Carolina, is the new National Secretary. Scott Watson, 20, of Gallatin, Missouri, Melanie Burgess, 20, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, Randall Hedge, 20, of Gran- nis, Arkansas, and William Jackson Stewart, 21, of Douglas, Wyoming, were named Vice Presidents of the Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western Regions, respectively. They will travel for the organization during the coming year and conduct the 1982 National Convention.

DORMAN-BYRNES CHAPTERS CITED



Two South Carolina FFA chapters received national recognition for outstanding programs. Shown receiving the Bronze Emblem Award for the Byrnes chapter is Paleather Burnett and, behind him, his agriculture teacher, William K. Bomar. On hand to receive the Silver Emblem Award for the Dorman chapter, Todd Jones, and his agriculture teacher, Gerald Moore.

BOAC AWARD



Two chapters from South Carolina were recognized for their outstanding work in the Building Our American Communities Program. Shown, left to right: For the Byrnes chapter, agriculture teacher Gerald Moore and David Staggs, Dorman FFA member, and for the Colleton chapter, William Wrighten, agriculture teacher.

The purpose of the BOAC program is to encourage FFA chapters to strengthen and expand members' involvement in understanding and developing their community.

NATIONAL EVENT CONTINUED

S. C. FFA MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE

RECEIVE HIGHEST DEGREE



Nine Future Farmers from South Carolina received the highest degree the national organization gives to student members. Present to receive the American Farmer Degree at the National Convention in Kansas City were, left to right: Nancy Gentry, Pendleton; David Norris, Belton-Honea Path; Steve Meadows, Woodruff; and Jaye Rowe, Pleasant Hill. Receiving the degree but not present when picture was taken were: Albert Brown, Crescent; Neil James, Loris; Malcolm Moore, Crescent; John Simpson, Crescent; and Mark Wiley, Abbeville.

To qualify for the American Farmer Degree, FFA members must have advanced through a system of degrees unique to the FFA organization. Members begin as Greenhands and after one year of membership may be advanced by the local chapter to the degree of Chapter Farmer. The third degree, that of State Farmer, is presented by the State FFA Association to two percent of the State's FFA membership in any one year. Only students who have earned the State Farmer Degree are eligible for the American Farmer Degree.

This degree is awarded only by the national organization at the annual convention. About two members per thousand per year receive this degree. The American Farmer Degree is truly the "cream of the crop," representing those Future Farmers whose achievements in agriculture and in leadership have earned national recognition.

CHAPTER SAFETY



National Chapter Safety Awards were presented to two chapters from South Carolina. On hand to receive the Bronze Emblem Award for Dorman were, front row, David Staggs and Nancy Thompson; second row, Gerald Moore, agriculture teacher, and Todd Jones. Elloree also received the Bronze Emblem Award but had no representative there.

COURTESY CORPS



Eight Future Farmers from South Carolina and one agriculture teacher served in the Courtesy Corps at the National Convention. They are shown left to right: (Front row) Bryan Hill, Abbeville; and the following from the Belton-Honea Path chapter, Junior Callaham, Harold Mackey, agriculture teacher, and David Norris; (second row) Scott Poore, Samuel Callaham, Tony Venturella, Ernie Major, and Junior Lindsay.

NATIONAL EVENT CONTINUED

HEAD CITED



Bill Head, a member of the Walhalla nursery/landscape team, is shown with his trophy for being fourth highest scoring individual in competition with all nursery/landscape teams in the United States.

NATIONAL BAND



Timothy Reese of Travelers Rest was selected as a member of the 109-piece National FFA Band from South Carolina. He represented his chapter and the state well.

NATIONAL CHORUS



Larry Butler, from the Hillcrest Chapter of Sumter, was selected as a member of the 112-member National FFA Chorus from South Carolina. Larry sang several solos during the National Convention and represented South Carolina well.

HONORARY DEGREE



Mark Herndon, National FFA President from Oklahoma City, presented the Honorary American Farmer Degree to W. M. Harris at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City recently.

The National Future Farmers of America organization bestowed the Honorary American Farmer Degree on W. M. Harris, District Consultant, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, at the recent National FFA Convention in Kansas City. The American Farmer Degree is the highest recognition given to adult supporters. Honorary membership is bestowed upon individuals who have given service to youth, agriculture, education, and the FFA organization. Honorees include public leaders, state agriculture staff members, local school and college administrators, college professors, and teachers of agriculture.

Harris has been a District Consultant of Vocational Agriculture with the Office of Vocational Education, State Department of Education, for 33 years.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK THEME

"VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE GROWING FOR AMERICA

February 20-27, 1982

S. C. YOUNG FARMER AND FUTURE FARMER

NATIONAL EVENT CONTINUED

NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

South Carolina had four teams to compete in the National Skills Contest held at the FFA Convention in Kansas City. They were: Agricultural Mechanics, Pendleton; Floriculture, Pendleton; Nursery/Landscape, Walhalla; and Livestock, Crescent. Participation in these contests is one of the many educational opportunities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members put into practice lessons taught in the agriculture classroom.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS



The state winner in the agricultural mechanics contest represented South Carolina in the national contest. The Pendleton team was composed of the following members, shown left to right: Aaron Langdale, Stanley Bridges, Joey Link, Chris Harper, and agriculture teacher George Reed. Pendleton received the Bronze Emblem Award.

This contest is sponsored by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

FLORICULTURE



The South Carolina state winning floriculture team from Pendleton represented South Carolina in the national competition recently in Kansas City. Shown, left to right, are: Christie Rogers, Amy Rankin, April Kennedy, and agriculture teacher Royce Caines. The floriculture team was awarded the Silver Emblem Award. Christie Rogers and April Kennedy each received the Individual Silver Emblem Award and Amy Rankin the Bronze Emblem Award.

The teams compete in events to test their judging and identification skills in floral products. In addition, contestants take a written examination testing general knowledge of such subjects as plant anatomy, growing media, and diagnosis of plant disorders.

This activity is sponsored by the American Association of Nurserymen and the Wholesale Nursery Growers of America. Sponsors provide funds to help pay travel expenses for the team as well as provide trophies.

LIVESTOCK



Members of the South Carolina FFA state livestock judging team represented South Carolina in the National FFA Judging Contest held in connection with the National FFA Convention in Kansas City recently. The Crescent team members are shown, left to right: Dawn Anderson, Lydia McGill, Benny Smith, and Ron Metz. Their agriculture teacher, Joe M. Price, is shown at right. The Crescent team received the Bronze Emblem Award. Dawn Anderson and Lydia McGill each received an Individual Silver Emblem Award and Ron Metz a Bronze Emblem Award. Benny Smith received a Gold Emblem Award for his showmanship expertise.

NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION CONTINUED

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE



Members of the Walhalla nursery/landscape team represented South Carolina in the national judging contest recently at the National FFA Convention. Accompanying the team was agriculture teacher, Robert Head. Team members include, left to right: Chris Rogers, Dana Cobb Phylow, and Bill Head. Robert Head, agriculture teacher, is shown in rear.

The teams participate in events to test their judging and identification skills in nursery products. In addition, contestants take a written examination testing general knowledge of such subjects as plant anatomy, growing media, and diagnosis of plant disorders.

The Walhalla team received the Silver Emblem Award. Bill Head received the Gold Emblem Award and was the fourth highest scoring individual in the nation. Chris Rogers and Dana Cobb Phylow received the Individual Silver Emblem Award.

This contest is sponsored by the American Association of Nurserymen and the Wholesale Nursery Growers of America. Sponsors provide funds to help pay travel expenses for the team as well as provide trophies.

**SEE YOU AT THE
YOUNG FARMER
STATE CONVENTION
January 15-16, 1982**

NATIONAL CONVENTION WORKERS

It takes the cooperation and assistance of many groups and individuals to conduct a successful National FFA Convention.

The National FFA Officers, Board of Directors, the Organization staff, and the U. S. Department of Education make contacts and arrangements.

FFA MEMBERS, more than 18,000 strong, observe and participate in the activities of the National Convention.

FFA DELEGATES, 121 elected representatives of over 500,000 students of vocational agriculture, vote on issues that affect the operation of the National Organization of the Future Farmers of America.

FFA ADVISORS, dedicated professionals who represent more than 13,000 chapter advisors - the core of influence, strength and progress in vocational agriculture and the FFA.

STATE SUPERVISORS AND FFA EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES AND TEACHER EDUCATORS, who provide direction for the improvement and strengthening of vocational agriculture to the FFA programs in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

AMERICAN FARMERS, representing the highest achievement in the FFA, who are recognized for their success in agriculture, personal development, and establishment in agriculture.

AWARD AND CONTEST WINNERS, who have set high goals and work diligently to achieve recognition provided by the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

BAND, CHORUS AND TALENT MEMBERS, 235 strong, selected from across the nation to provide musical entertainment for all convention participants and fulfill an important program role.

PARENTS, who have demonstrated their interest in and support to the FFA by encouraging their sons and daughters to participate fully in FFA activities.

SPONSORS, who invest in the future of agriculture by providing personal support and funds for FFA activities and incentive awards to members through the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

PRESS, RADIO AND TV, representatives who tell the story of active youth involved in the industry of agriculture through the news media.

FFA ALUMNI, representing former FFA members and friends of the FFA who demonstrate continued support to the organization that meant so much to their success.

KANSAS CITY ADVISORY COUNCIL, over 125 outstanding business leaders who give their time and make a cooperative effort to make the convention a great event for agriculture and the FFA.

FFA MEMBERS IN ACTION



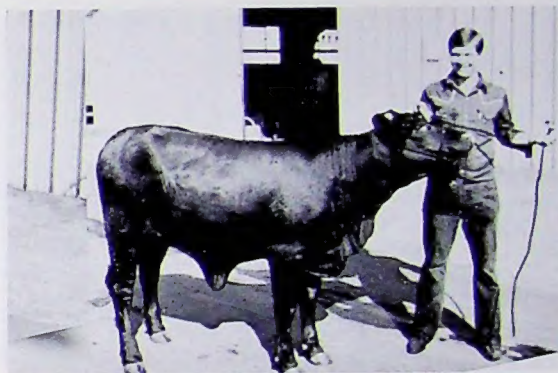
Nancy Gentry, former State Vice President of the FFA, is shown preparing her Holstein cow to compete in the S. C. State Fair. Nancy is from the Pendleton FFA chapter. Her agriculture teachers are George M. Reed and Royce Caines.



Lydia McGill, of the Crescent FFA chapter, is shown with her Grand Champion Shorthorn Female in the Junior Show at the S. C. State Fair. H. S. Clinkscales and Joe M. Price are agriculture teachers at Crescent High School.



Chuck Fink, of the Gilbert FFA, is shown putting the final touches to his Holstein cow for participation in the S. C. State Fair. Chuck's agriculture teacher is Jack Cunningham.



Darrell Ricketts, State FFA Vice President from Abbeville, is shown with his Santa Gertrudis heifer at the S. C. State Fair. Barry Edmunds is the agriculture teacher at Abbeville.



Brian O'Shields of the Woodruff FFA, is shown preparing his polled Hereford heifer for show in the S. C. State Fair. His agriculture teacher is J. Elmer Smith.



Ricky Vaughn of the James F. Byrnes chapter, is shown with his Angus heifer at the S. C. State Fair. George Paul Jones, Jr. and Billy Bomar are agriculture teachers at James F. Byrnes High School.

FFA MEMBERS IN ACTION



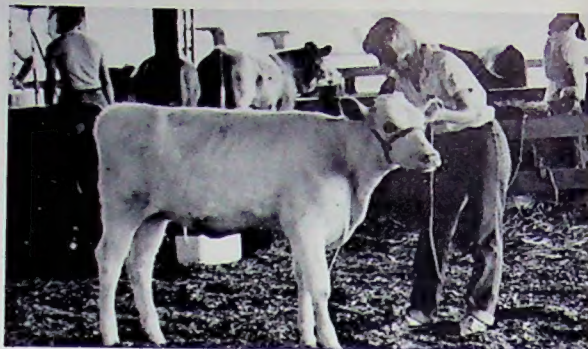
Marty Watt, of the Crescent FFA chapter, is shown with his first place polled Hereford in the senior division of the S. C. Junior Polled Herford Show at the Upper State Fair. He also won a trip to the FFA National Convention with his animal.



Jody Watt, of the Crescent FFA chapter, is shown with his first place polled Hereford Show at the Upper State Fair. He also won a trip to the National FFA Convention with this same animal.



Masashi Kawanishi, from Japan, is shown assisting the Byrnes FFA chapter to prepare their animals for competition in the S. C. State Fair. Kawanishi was spending some time at James F. Byrnes High School this fall. George Paul Jones, Jr. and Billy Bomar are the agriculture teachers at Byrnes.



Dawn Anderson, of the Crescent FFA chapter, is shown with her champion calf, a shorthorn heifer, at the S. C. State Fair. In addition, she won Grand Champion Shorthorn Bull at the Spartanburg Fair and Reserve Champion Shorthorn Bull and Heifer at the Anderson Fair. Joe M. Price and H. S. Clinkscales are agriculture teachers at Crescent.



Randy Nichols, of the Crescent FFA, is shown with his junior Angus calf at the Anderson Fair.



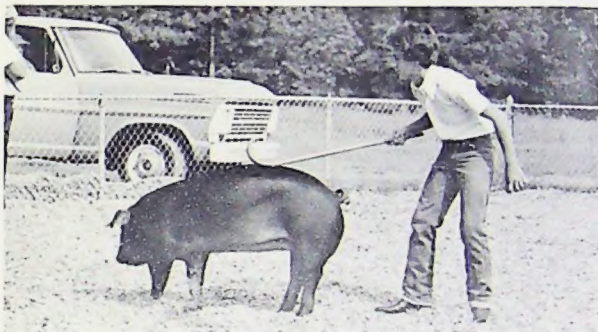
Lydia McGill of the Crescent FFA, is shown preparing her shorthorn cow for the show at the S. C. State Fair.

S. C. YOUNG FARMER AND FUTURE FARMER

FFA MEMBERS IN ACTION



Ron Metz, of the Crescent FFA chapter, is shown above with the judge of the Southeastern Shorthorn Association Show and his Grand Champion heifer. Ron won Reserve Champion at the Upper State Fair, Grand Champion and Reserve Champion at the Piedmont Interstate Fair, Reserve Grand Champion and Reserve Calf Champion at the S. C. State Fair, and Grand Champion at the Anderson Fair. Agriculture teachers at Crescent High School are Joe M. Price and H. S. Clinkscales.



Jody Watt gives the judge a good look at his champion gilt. Jody is from the Crescent chapter.



In this picture Dawn Anderson is showing her Junior Champion Yorkshire gilt. Dawn also won Senior Champion Crossbred Sow at the Upper State Fair. She is from the Crescent FFA chapter.



Shown above is Judge Dale Hanlin presenting the Boar of all Breeds trophy to Dawn Anderson of the Crescent FFA chapter, and the donor of the trophy from the Gaines family. Dawn also won the Junior and Grand Champion Yorkshire trophies at the Upper State Fair. Joe M. Price and H. S. Clinkscales are agriculture teachers at Crescent.

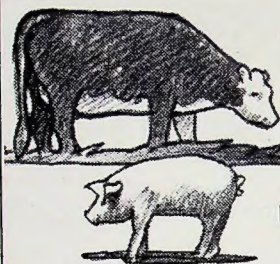


Marty Watt is shown with his champion sow at the Upper State Fair. Marty is a member of the Crescent FFA chapter.



Mark Duffell, Jody Watt and Randy Nichols from the Crescent FFA chapter are shown participating in the swine show at the Upper State Fair.

The American farmer...



**producing
more
than ever.**

You are vital to our economy, for without the food and fiber which you provide, we would be struggling for our existence. And it is through your ingenuity that farming in this country has become a multi-billion dollar industry. We at the Production Credit and Federal Land Bank Associations hope that you will make farming your future. The nation is counting on you.



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